

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

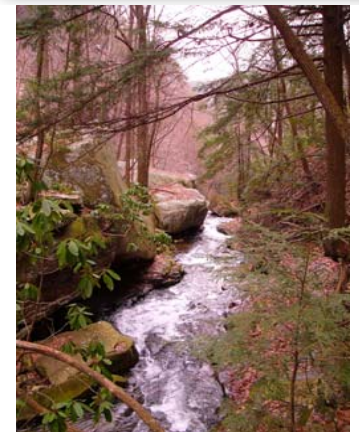
Environmental Compliance Workshop

Clean Water



April 16, 2009

High Expectations for Water Resources in Georgia

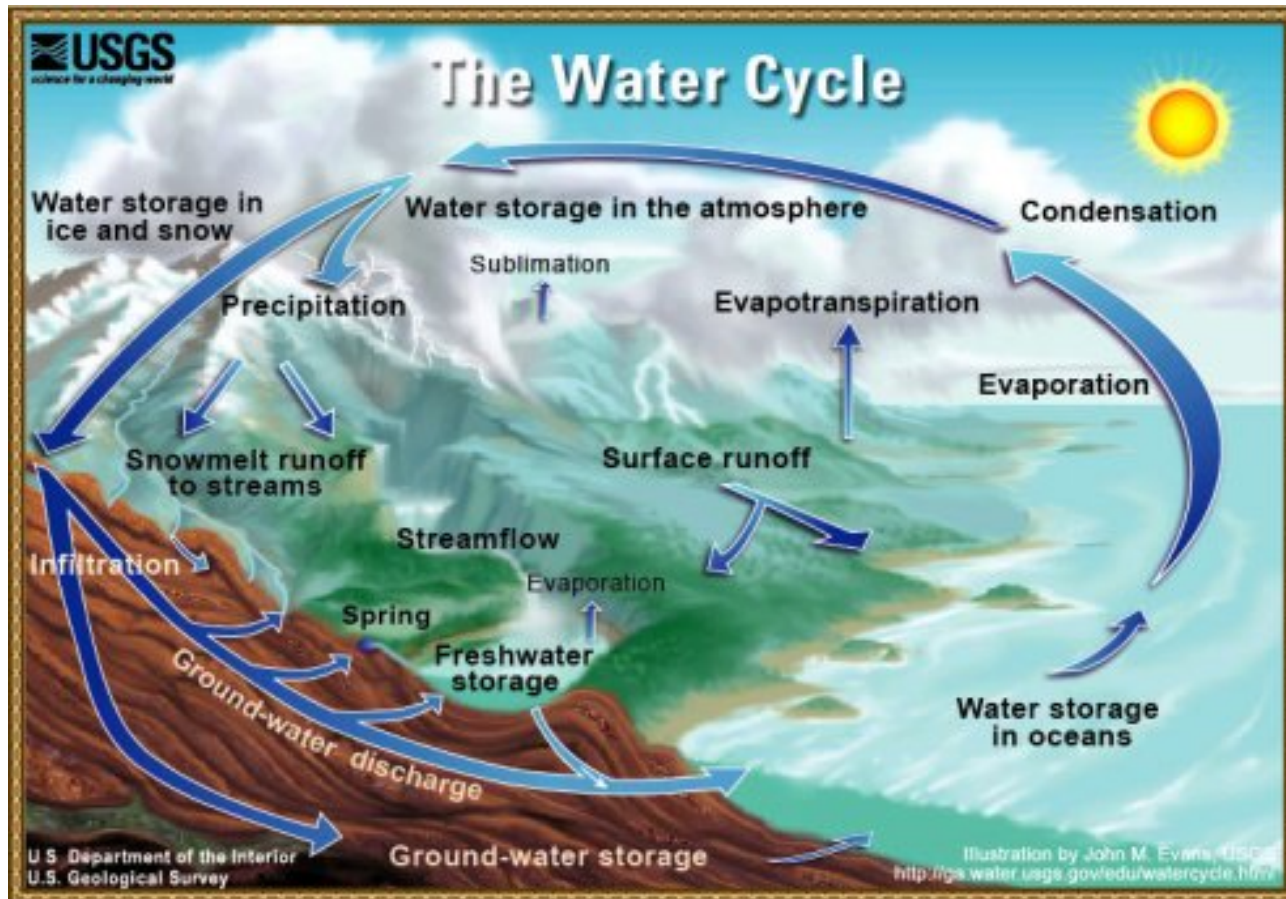


Clean Water for Present and Future Generations



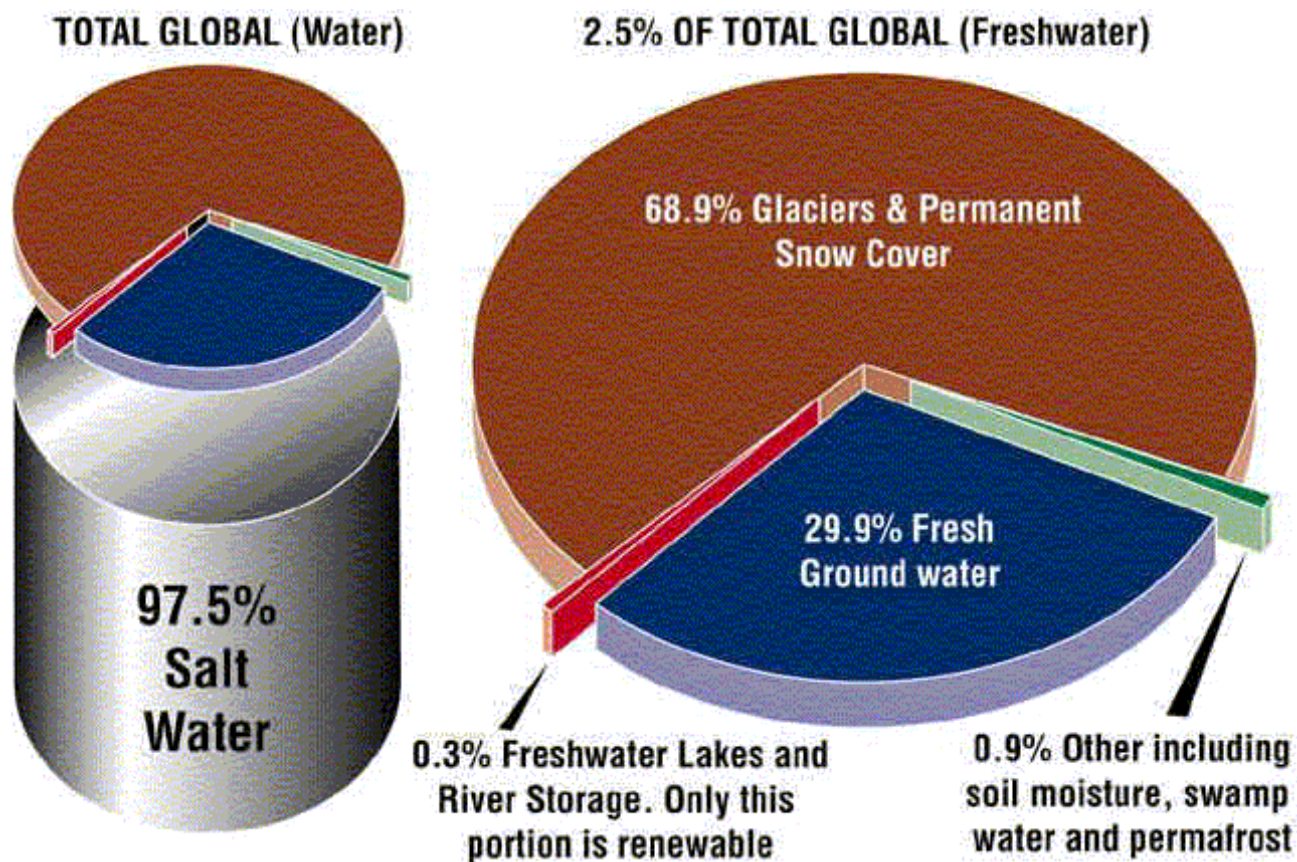
- Clean water is important to Georgians today
- Clean water important to tomorrow's Georgians
- “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” [Gov. Sonny Perdue - 2007 State of the State Address]

The Water Cycle





Global Water Supply



Protect Water Quality

- Protect water quality by managing pollutant loading to water bodies from...
 - Treated Wastewater Discharges from Municipalities and Industries (Point Source Discharges)
 - Runoff From the Land (Nonpoint Source Discharges)
- ...so as to not exceed water quality standards and/or the assimilative capacity of the water bodies

Definition: Point Source Discharges

- A point source is a discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance from which pollutants may be discharged to surface waters (e.g., wastewater treatment plant discharges).



Definition: Nonpoint Source Discharges

- Nonpoint sources are diffuse, and generally, but not always, involve accumulation of pollutants on land surfaces that wash off as a result of storm events.



Definition: Water Quality Criteria or Standards

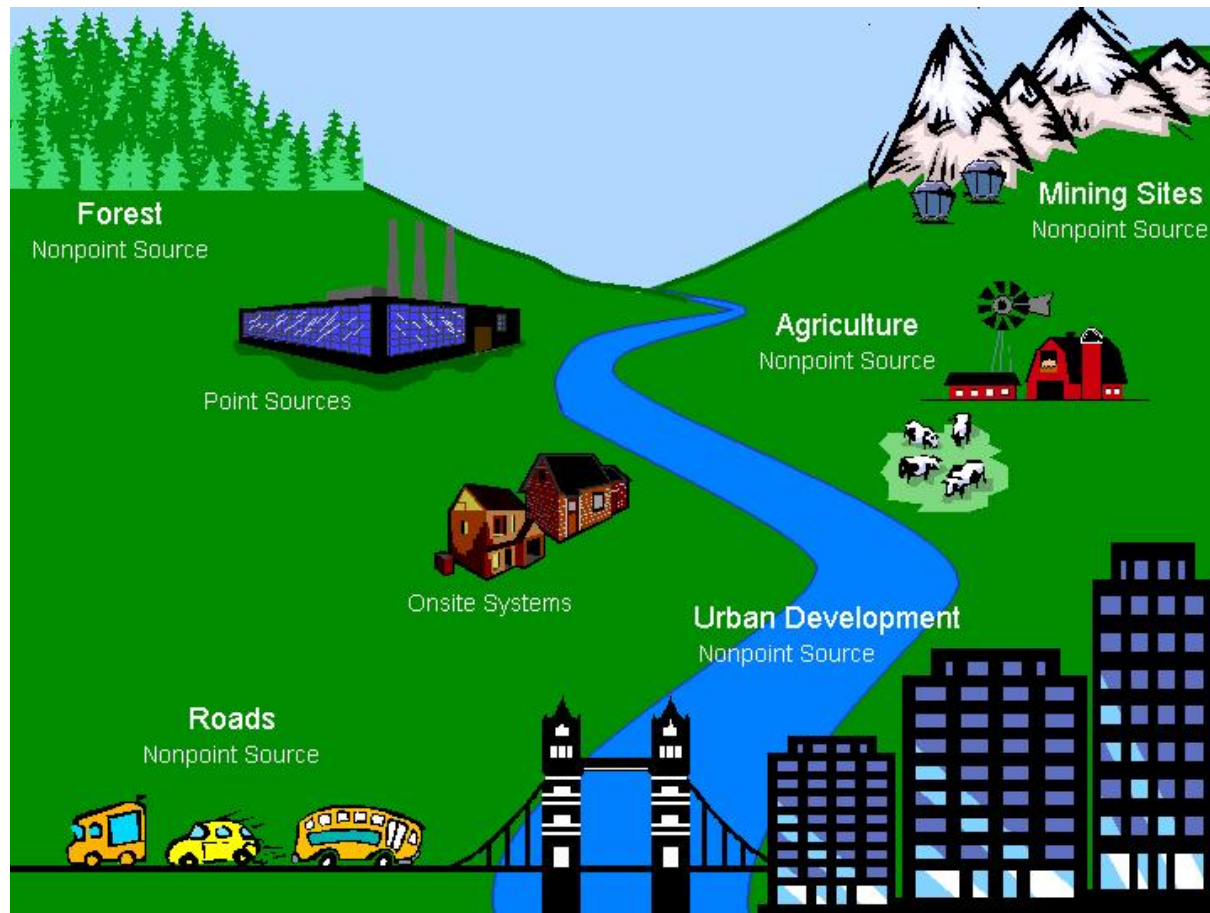
- Water quality criteria or standards are limits on pollutants and consist of both numeric limits and narrative criteria.



Definition: Assimilative Capacity

- The natural capacity of a water body to dilute and absorb pollutants and prevent harmful effects (e.g., damage to public health or physical, chemical, biological quality of the water).
- Determined through studies of the water body
- Where exceeded, the water body is *impaired*

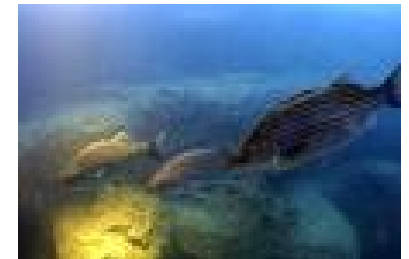
Sources of Water Pollution



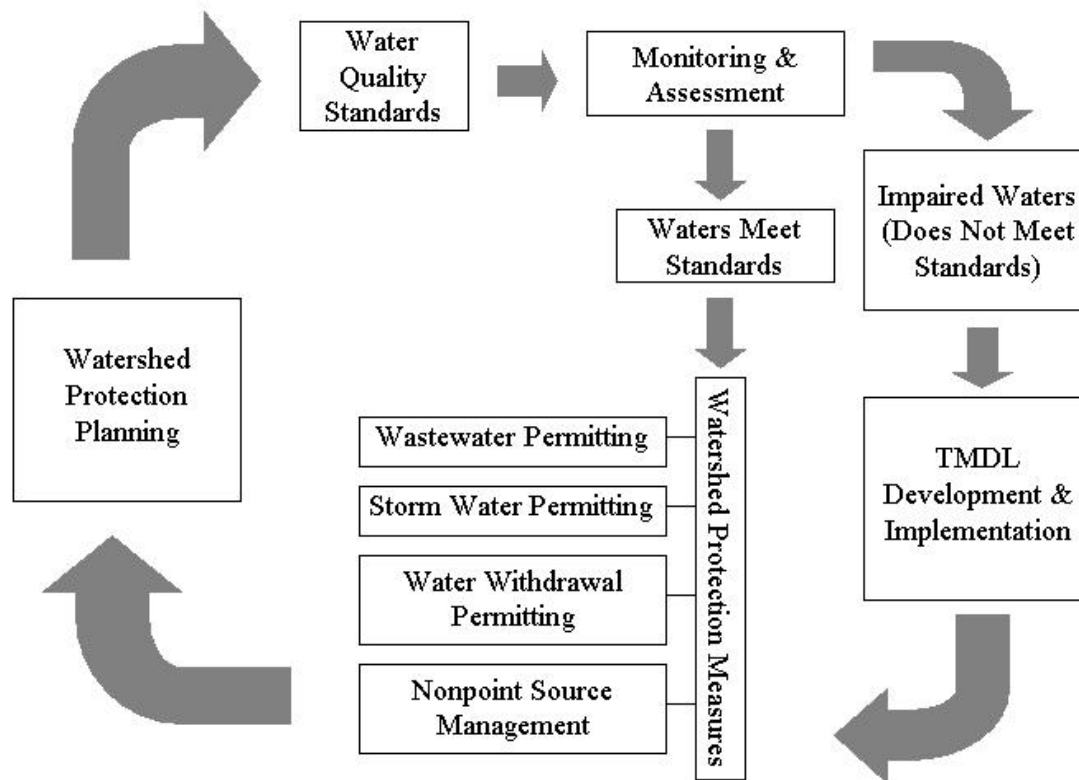
Objective/Goal of the Clean Water Act

CWA Objective: To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

CWA Goal: Provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and provide for recreation in and on the water.



Clean Water Programs in Georgia

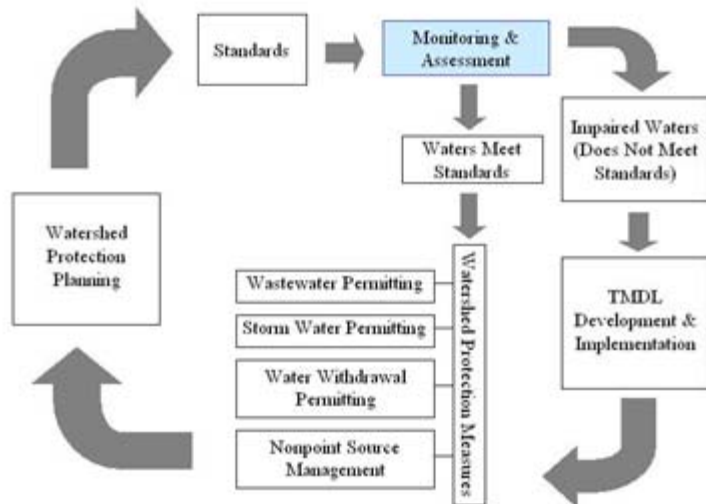


Water Quality Standards: Designated Uses

- Fishing
- Recreation
- Drinking water
- Wild River
- Scenic River
- Coastal Fishing
- Special Designations

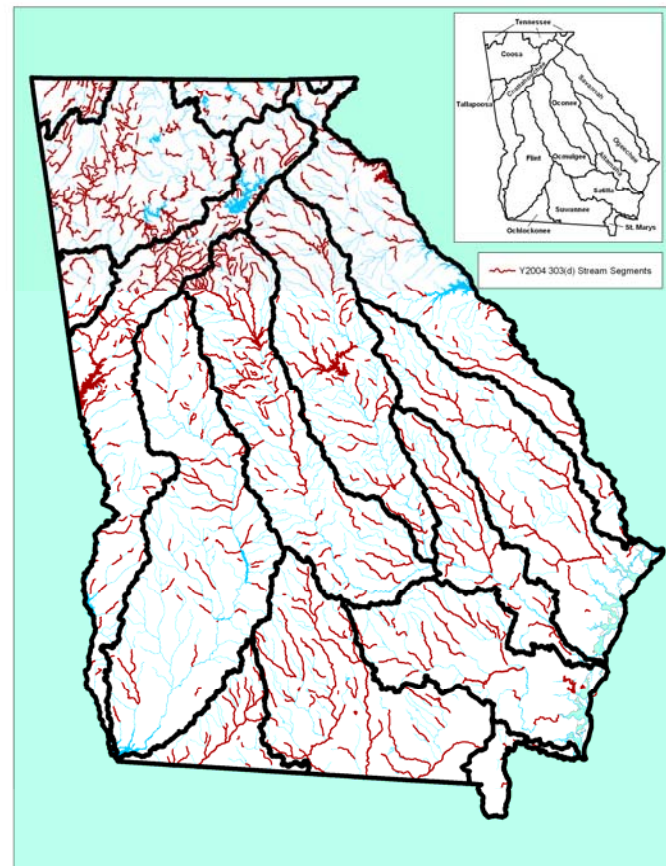
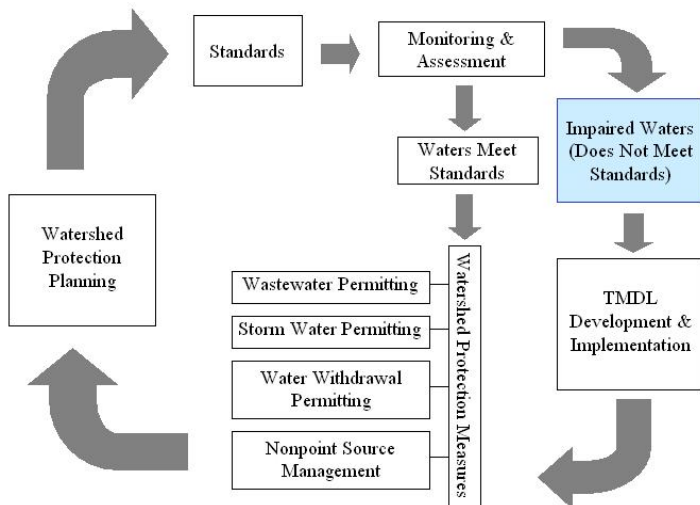


Monitoring and Assessment

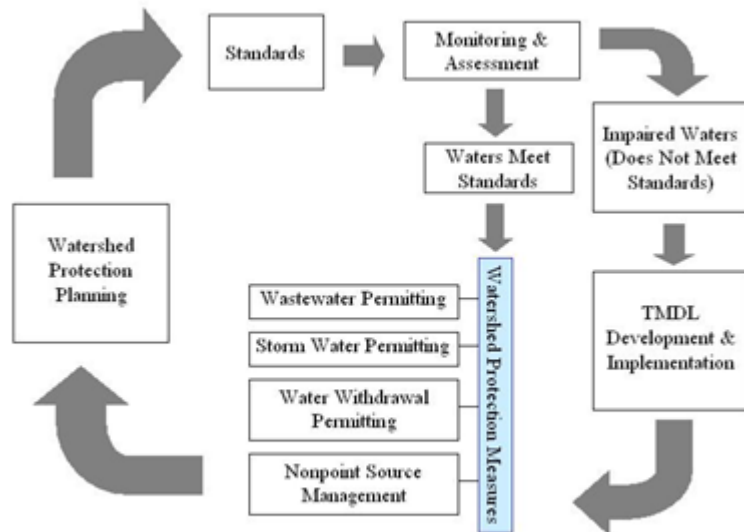


- Monitor and assess compliance with Water Quality Standards
- Assessment results:
 - Meet water quality standards
 - Do not meet water quality standards
 - Impaired Waters → 303(d) List

Impaired Waters in Georgia 2008 303(d) List Map



Watershed Protection Measures



- Regulatory Permitting Programs
 - Wastewater
 - Storm water
 - Erosion Control
- Nonpoint Source Management

Point Source Discharge Management

- NPDES Permits
 - Municipal
 - Industrial
 - Private and Institutional
- Permit Requirements
 - Effluent Limitations
 - Monitoring Requirements
 - Reporting Requirements
 - Pretreatment Requirements



Nonpoint Source Discharge Management

- Stormwater Permitting
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Outreach Programs

Stormwater Permitting

- NPDES Permits
 - Phase 1 Large/Medium Municipalities - 1994/1995
 - Phase II Smaller Municipalities –2002
 - General Permits for Eleven Industrial Categories –1998
- Permit Requirements
 - Stormwater Management Plan
 - Implementation of Best Management Practices
 - Annual Reporting



Erosion and Sedimentation Control Permitting

- Georgia State Law
- Local Governments Issue Permits - 339 Cities or Counties
- Program Requirements
 - Stormwater Ordinance
 - Stormwater Management Plan
 - Implementation of Best Management Practices
 - Land Disturbing of one acre or greater
 - Education Requirements for Developers



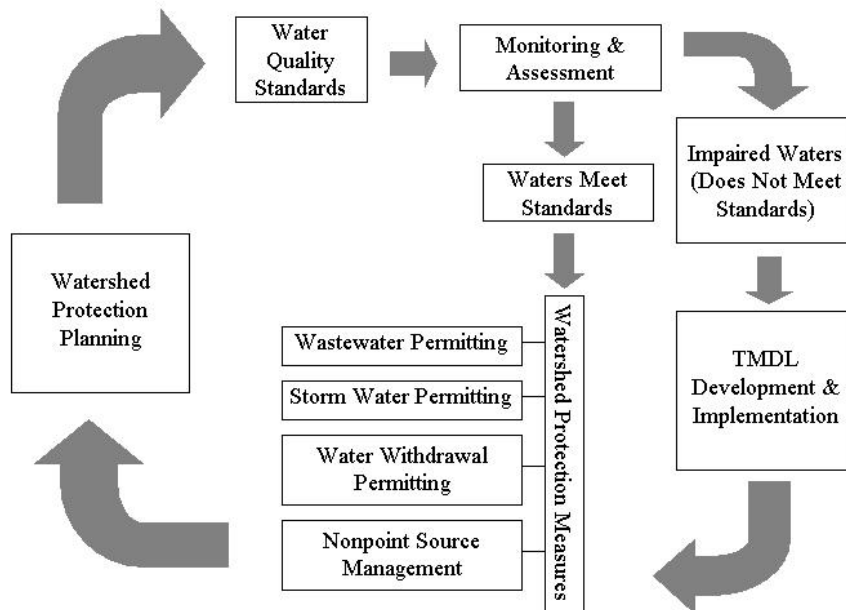
Nonpoint Source Management Program for Agriculture and Silvicultural Operations

- Lead Agencies
 - Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission – Agriculture
 - Georgia Forestry Commission – Forestry
- Non-regulatory Programs
 - Best Management Practices
 - Education Programs
 - Demonstration Projects

Outreach Programs

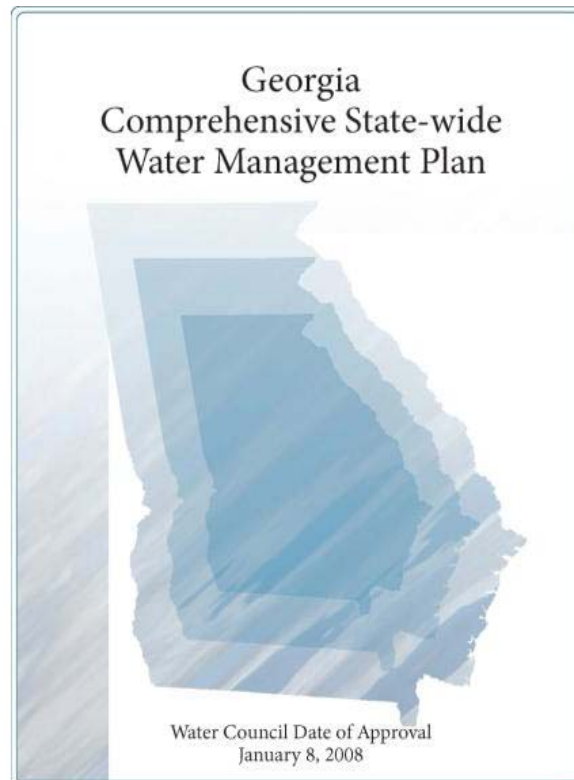
- Georgia Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)
 - Reaches more than 600,000 students annually
 - Annual River of Words Contest –20,000 entries annually
- Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
 - Citizen Stream Protection and Monitoring Programs
 - Rivers Alive Cleanup in 2007 - 25,000 volunteers cleaned up more than 2,300 miles of streams and removed over 750,000 pounds of trash and garbage
 - 60 Community Sponsored Monitoring Programs involving more than 14,000 Volunteers

Watershed Protection Planning



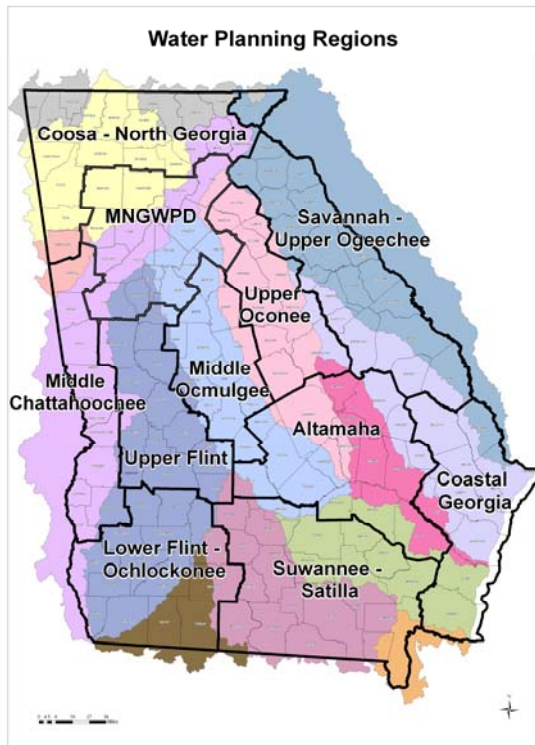
- Source Water Protection
- Watershed Protection Plans
- TMDL Implementation Plans
- Nonpoint Source Management Plans
- **Comprehensive State-Wide Water Management Planning**

Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan



<http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/>

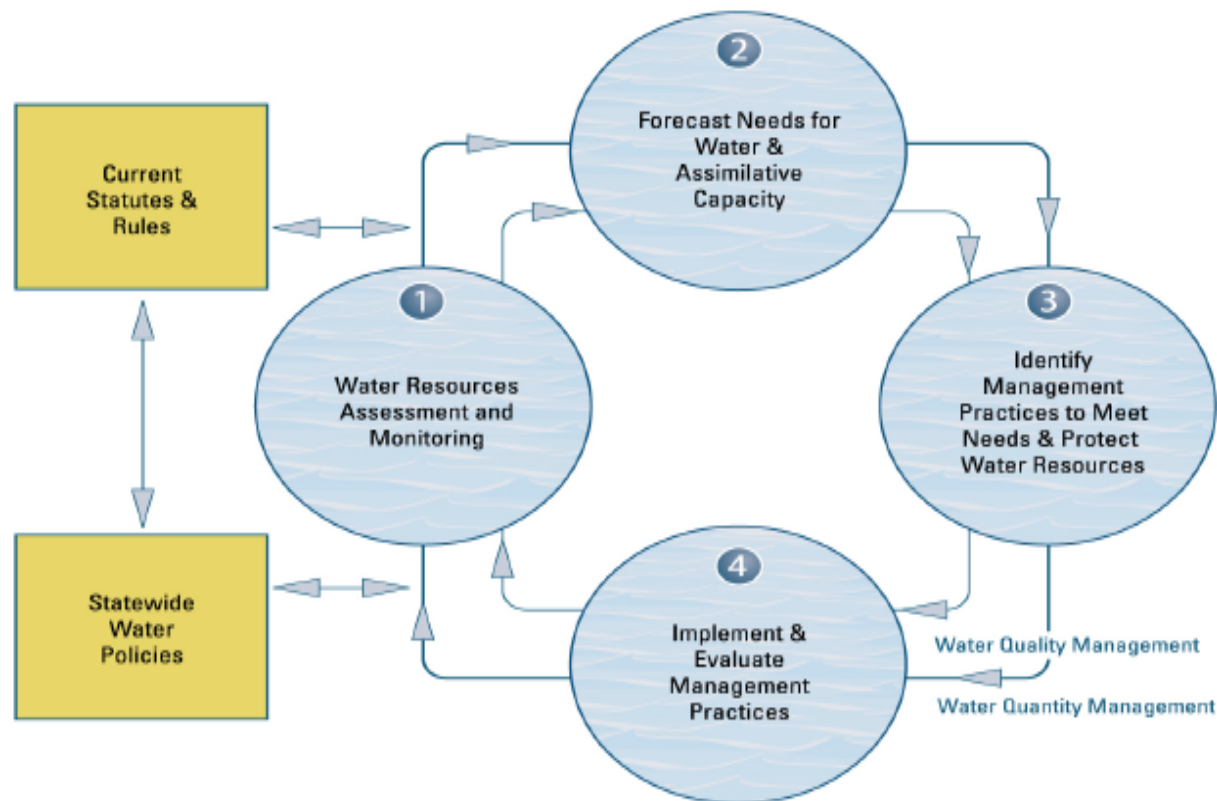
Water Planning Regions



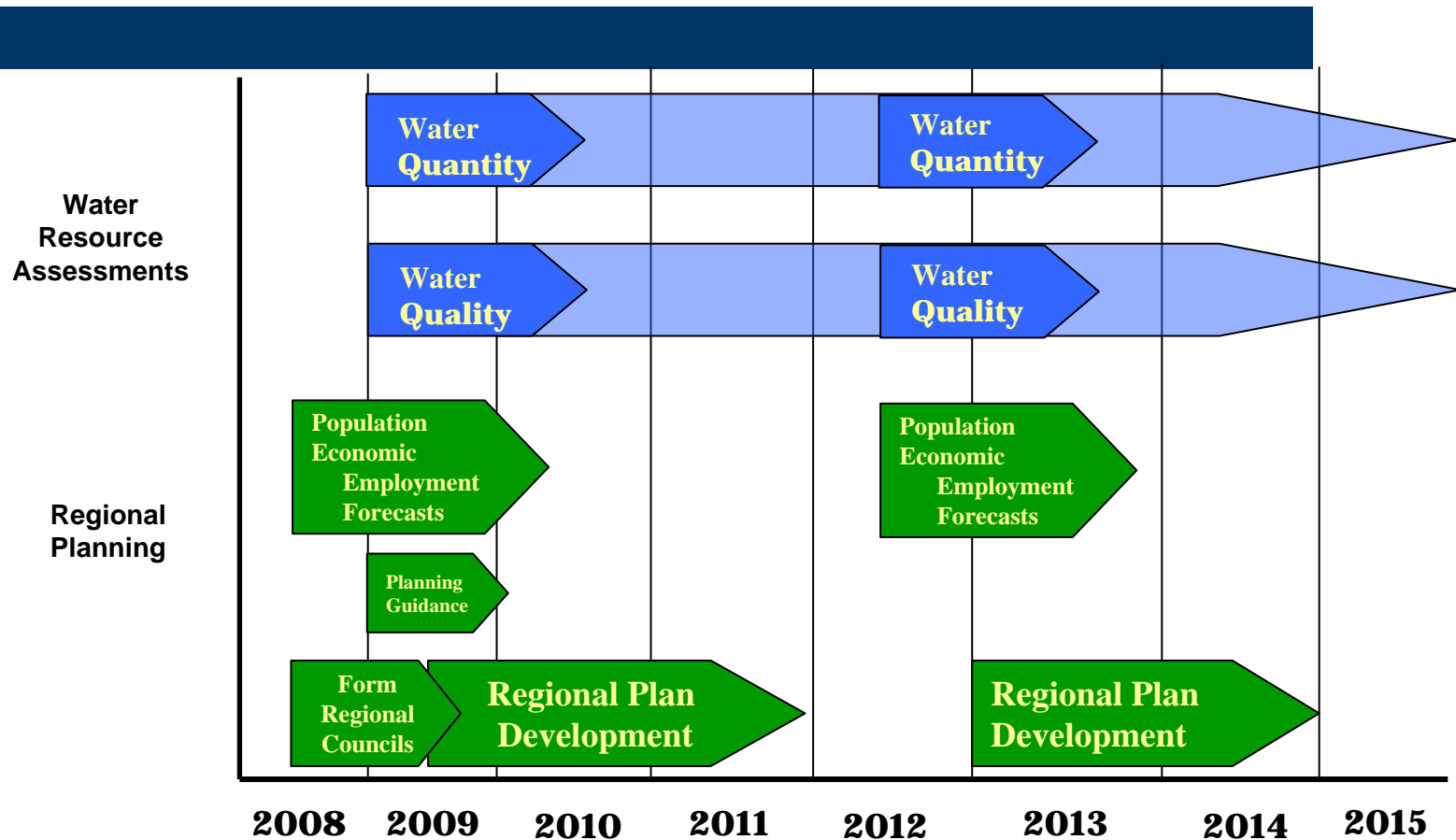
- Regional Water Planning Councils for each Water Planning Region
- Water Planning Regions generally aligned with major water resources
- MNGWPD boundaries set by state law
- Gov., Lt. Gov., and Speaker to selected members of Regional Water Planning Council

Georgia Water Planning Process

Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan



Phased Plan Implementation



Georgia EPD Clean Water Contacts

- Point Source Permitting 404-362-2680
- Nonpoint Source Programs 404-675-6240
- Standards and Monitoring 404-675-6236
- Water Withdrawal Permitting 404-675-6236
- Safe Dams 404-362-2626
- Drinking Water Programs 404-656-4807
- Georgia EPD <http://www.gaepd.org/>

Questions and Comments

